

Lycaena dorcas claytoni (Clayton's Copper)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Insecta* (Insects)

Order: *Lepidoptera* (Butterflies, Skippers, And Moths)

Family: *Lycaenidae* (Gossamer-winged Butterflies)

General comments:

9 extant EOs with ~50% population at one site

Species Conservation Range Maps for Clayton's Copper:

Town Map: [Lycaena dorcas claytoni_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Lycaena dorcas claytoni_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:

Maine Status: **Threatened**

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

NatureServe:

Global Rank: T1

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Professional Discretion:

Current criteria ranked *Lycaena dorcas claytoni* as SGCN priority 1, however, species should be SGCN priority 2 based on professional discretion.

Justification: recent UMO research suggests this may not be a distinct subspecies; would lose NatureServe subspecific rank (T1) for global rarity and no longer meet criteria of high regional conservation concern; still qualifies for state risk of extirpation.

Habitats Assigned to Clayton's Copper:

Formation Name Freshwater Marsh

Macrogroup Name Emergent Marsh

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Freshwater Marsh **Notes:** *drier shrubby sites where host plant (shrubby cinquefoil) present*

Macrogroup Name Wet Meadow-Shrub Marsh

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Wet Meadow-Shrub Swamp ****Primary Habitat**** **Notes:** *where host plant (shrubby cinquefoil) present*

Formation Name Grassland & Shrubland

Macrogroup Name Ruderal Shrubland & Grassland

Habitat System Name: Ruderal Upland - Old Field **Notes:** *occasional use where host plant (shrubby cinquefoil) present and early successional shrub stage maintained; only in areas adjacent to existing wetland occurrences*

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Formation Name Northeastern Wetland Forest

Macrogroup Name Northern Swamp

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Alkaline Conifer-Hardwood Swamp ****Primary Habitat**** **Notes:** *where host plant (shrubby cinquefoil) present*

Habitat System Name: Northern Appalachian-Acadian Conifer-Hardwood Acidic Swamp ****Primary Habitat**** **Notes:** *where host plant (shrubby cinquefoil) present*

Formation Name Peatland

Macrogroup Name Northern Peatland & Fens

Habitat System Name: Boreal-Laurentian-Acadian Acidic Basin Fen ****Primary Habitat**** **Notes:** *where host plant (shrubby cinquefoil) present*

Stressors Assigned to Clayton's Copper:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Moderate Severity		High Severity	
	Highly Actionable		Medium-High	
	Moderately Actionable		Medium	
	Actionable with Difficulty		Low	

IUCN Level 1 Threat Other Options

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Lack of knowledge

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Highly actionable

Notes: Lack of comprehensive survey effort to identify additional occurrences and monitor status/trends of individual populations

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Other Threat

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Highly actionable

Notes: Wetland succession where forest canopy encroaches and shades out host plant; forest succession on upland sites

IUCN Level 1 Threat Pollution

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Highly actionable

Notes: Nontarget species impacts from aerial pesticides; especially control efforts for spruce budworm in northern/eastern ME

IUCN Level 1 Threat Biological Resource Use

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Logging and Wood Harvesting

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Impacts to host plant/fen habitat; planned harvest/management can also improve/create habitat

IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Storms and Flooding

Severity: Moderate Severity **Actionability:** Moderately actionable

Notes: Flooding by storms (actionable with difficulty), beaver impoundments (highly actionable), etc can drown eggs/larvae and host plants

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IUCN Level 1 Threat

Natural Systems Modifications

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Dams and Water Management-Use

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Eggs, larvae and host plant intolerant of prolonged/permanent inundation; water withdrawal for irrigation or other large consumptive uses can alter wetland hydrology

IUCN Level 1 Threat

Transportation and Service Corridors

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Roads and Railroads

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Habitat loss and fragmentation; alteration of wetland hydrology

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Clayton's Copper:

**Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Action	Category: Survey and Monitoring	Biological Priority: critical	Type: on-going
Develop and implement a systematic protocol for monitoring population size, demographics, and trends.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Action	Category: Habitat Management	Biological Priority: critical	Type: new
Conduct selective thinning at sites where forest canopy is encroaching and shading out host plant stands.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Other Threat

Conservation Action	Category: Research	Biological Priority: high	Type: new
Prepare a statewide atlas and conservation assessment.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Lack of knowledge

Conservation Actions Associated with the Peatland Lepidoptera Guild:

Conservation Action	Category: Species Management	Biological Priority: critical	Type: new
Prepare occurrence maps and pesticide spray consultation guidelines for rare Lepidoptera and distribute to strategic partners including Maine Bureau of Pesticides Control.			

Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

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The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.